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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

## **Slaughter Cheers Override of President's Veto of WRDA**

### **House Votes to Override Veto by a Vote of 361-54**

**Washington, DC** - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today joined an overwhelming majority of House Members in voting to override the President's November 2<sup>nd</sup> veto of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

**"Today, the House of Representatives sent a clear message to the President - stop your political games and let's move forward with these vital water resources projects,"** said Rep. Slaughter. **"With this vote to override the President's veto, Congress is ensuring that our local communities can move ahead with these important projects without delay."**

**"The 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District includes about a third of New York State's Lake Ontario Coastline, which is one of our most precious natural resources. Investments contained in WRDA are critical in my efforts to protect this resource and leverage it to help create jobs and spur economic development,"** added Slaughter.

Following the House of Representatives successful vote to override the veto, the Senate is expected to also override the veto this week.

Rep. Slaughter secured language in the bill to allow Rochester to access up to \$8 million annually in federal funds to support the restoration of the Erie Canal. The City is exploring a

proposal to promote urban redevelopment through restoring and renovating a section of the Erie Canal's historic path in Rochester. In addition to re-watering part of the canal, the authorization would provide the city of Rochester with the opportunity to construct pedestrian trails, parks, promenades, and other recreational and other recreational venues in the downtown area.

Another top priority of Rep. Slaughter's in the WRDA bill was alternative energy. For this reason, Rep. Slaughter worked to secure an authorization in the bill directing the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study for a low-cost, clean-energy hydroelectric generating facility on the Niagara River. Another Western New York project included in WRDA is the construction of a breakwater in Olcott Harbor in Niagara County. Also included in the bill is an authorization for the development of restoration and conservation plans for the Niagara and Genesee Rivers. The project directs the Corps to work with local and state entities to develop a comprehensive plan to restore and protect the Genesee River.

Congress typically authorizes new Army Corps of Engineers water resources studies and projects in a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) before appropriating funds to them. There has been a seven year gap since the last WRDA bill was enacted in 2000. Authorizations had, in the past, followed a biennial schedule to ensure timely funding for important regional projects. In the 109th Congress the House and Senate passed WRDA bills, but a conference agreement could not be reached. Before this year, the House passed WRDA in July 2005.

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